PAGE 01 JIDDA 05909 01 OF 02 271541Z 6180

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 03-15 010 02 10-15 NA-00

DEPARTMENT GEN-STATE02A/ODC/AMR

046435 2716032 /51

O 271635Z AUG 81
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4351
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

REVIEWED BY Schmidt DATE 7/2/85

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 JIDDA 05909

USINFO PASS FGM/RC

E.O. N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, SA
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SAUDI DEFENSE REQUESTS

1. (U) ON AUGUST 27 THE SAUDI DAILY UKAZ PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW WITH PRINCE SULTAN. ON THE SAME PAGE WAS AN EDITORIAL COMMENTING ON THE INTERVIEW.

2. (U) FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE INTERVIEW. - - - - 'PRINCE SULTAN BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION, HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE KINGDOM IS FULLY AWARE OF ITS OWN INTERESTS AND REALIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING ITS CAPABILITIES TO DEAL WITH ALL CONTINGENCIES. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE KINGDOM APPRECIATES THE MAGNITUDE OF ITS ARAB, INTERNATIONAL AND ISLAMIC RESPONSIBILITY. THE KINGDOM IS THEREFORE SEEKING TO ARM ITSELF QUANTITATIVELY AND QUALITATIVELY REGARDLESS OF ANY OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THAT MAY BLOCK ACQUISITION OF THE ARMS WE NEED.

3. (U) "IN A STATEMENT TO UKAZ, PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT WE IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA RESPECT OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND ACT IN FULL RECOGNITION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING US. WE WANT ALL OTHERS TO DEAL WITH US ON THAT BASIS. HE NOTED THAT THE KINGDOM IS CONTINUOUSLY SEEKING THE APPROPRIATE ARMS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND IN THE APPPOPRIATE MANNER. ALL THAT WE ASK OF OUR FRIENDS IS TO UNDERSTAND OUR NEEDS AND RESPOND TO OUR REQUIREMENTS, PUTTING ASIDE ANY CONSIDERATIONS THAT MIGHT BLOCK COMMERCIAL DEALS (SIC) UNRELATED TO MAJOR DEFENSE ISSUES. HE RESTATED THE KINGDOM'S DETERMINATION TO SECURE ITS MILITARY NEEDS FROM ANY SOURCE THAT IS WILLING TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME HAS THE QUALITY (OF WEAPONS) WE SEEK.

4. (U) "IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM UKAZ ABOUT NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT THE U.S. PLANS TO SELL THE KINGDOM $8.5 BILLION WORTH OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, PRINCE SULTAN SAID THE KINGDOM'S ARMS POLICY IS BASED ON ITS NATURAL NEEDS WHICH CAN INSURE THE KINGDOM'S SECURITY AND STABILITY AND AT THE SAME TIME ENABLE IT TO DISCHARGE ITS NATIONAL DUTY IN A MANNER THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF THIS NATION.

5. (U) "PRINCE SULTAN REAFFIRMED THAT OUR COUNTRY ASKS NOTHING FROM THE U.S. OR ANY OTHER NATION EXCEPT THE ARMS WHICH CAN INSURE THE KINGDOM'S PROTECTION AND ENABLE IT TO LIVE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AT ALL TIMES. HE CONSIDERED IT UNLIKELY THAT, ON THE QUESTION OF ARMAMENTS, THE KINGDOM WOULD HAVE ANY DISCUSSION WITH ANY PARTY AIMED AT DETERMINING THE DIMENSIONS OF OUR MILITARY NEEDS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE KINGDOM CAN ACQUIRE WHAT IT NEEDS AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT ATTEMPTS BY ANY PARTY TO STAND IN THE WAY OF ITS NEEDS .E ARE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT WHAT WE WANT FROM OTHERS, AND WILL THEREFORE PERMIT NO ONE TO LIMIT OUR MILITARY OR ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGARDLESS OF ANY CIRCUMSTANCES OR REASONS. THIS STAND DERIVES FROM OUR SOVEREIGNTY, HE SAID.

6. (U) "IN CONCLUSION, PRINCE SULTAN TOLD UKAZ THE KINGDOM HAS RECEIVED NO COMMUNICATION FROM THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION OTHER THAN WHAT THE TWO PARTIES HAD AGREED TO EARLIER. HE RE-EMPHASIZED THAT THIS COUNTRY WILL BUY AND ACQUIRE ARMS WITHOUT CONDITIONS AND COMMITMENTS."

7. (U) THE EDITORIAL IN THE SAME ISSUE OF UKAZ COMMENTED ON SULTAN'S REMARKS: "OUR FIRM POLITICAL PRINCIPLES... AFFIRM THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT ATTEMPTS BY ANYONE TO IMPOSE ANY CONDITIONS ON US IN MATTERS RELATED TO OUR ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY... IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION WANTS STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE REGION IN GENERAL AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN PARTICULAR, THEN IT LOGICALLY FOLLOWS THAT THE STATES OF THE S AREA SHOULD HAVE ARMS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND THEREBY INSURE SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE AREA..."

8. (U) THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "FINALLY, WE WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE IMPACT OF THE ZIONIST LOBBY AND ALIGNMENT WITH ISRAEL TENDS TO JEOPARDIZE THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE EUROPEAN NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES. ISRAEL WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE STABILITY IN THE AREA. NEITHER WILL IT BE A USEFUL STRATEGIC ASSET FOR ANYONE BECAUSE THE REAL FORCE IN THE ARAB REGION IS THE ARAB

O 271535Z AUG 81
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4392
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 JIDDA 05909

FORCE--AND THAT FORCE WILL ACQUIRE ARMS ON ITS OWN TERMS AND WITH ITS OWN CAPABILITIES..."

9. (LOU) COMMENT: PRINCE SULTAN IS SIMPLY SAYING THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS NOT GOING TO ALLOW ANYONE (READ ISRAEL) TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OR KIND OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IT CAN ACQUIRE AND IS IMPLYING THAT, IF THE U.S. IS PREVENTED BY THE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL FROM SELLING SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA, THE SAUDIS WILL TURN TO EUROPE TO SUPPLY THEIR NEEDS.
MURPHY